

An ADE Newsletter for Test Coordinators

May 2014



The Examiner



AIMS—**AIMS A**—**AZELLA**—**NAEP**—**PARCC**
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Irene Hunting, Deputy Associate Superintendent

Announcements

The New Statewide Achievement Test

The State Board of Education (SBE) has launched a web page with information about the Request for Proposal (RFP) Process that will be used to choose a new statewide assessment for Arizona that is aligned with the Arizona College and Career Ready Standards. You can visit the page at www.azed.gov/state-board-education/new-statewide-assessment/.

The RFP is expected to be posted in the coming weeks. The final selection and adoption of a new statewide achievement test is expected to occur early in school year 2014-2015. As soon as possible after the SBE adopts the new statewide achievement test, the Assessment Section will post a testing calendar and other information about the test.

ADE Customer Satisfaction Survey

Your satisfaction with the customer service provided by ADE is important to us. ADE regularly surveys its customers in order to gauge that level of satisfaction. **This year's Assessment Section Customer Satisfaction survey will be sent out on Tuesday, May 6** to Test Coordinators for all of our assessment programs (AIMS, AIMS A, AZELLA, NAEP and international assessments, NCSC Pilot Test, and PARCC Field Test). The survey has been changed so that each District Test Coordinator will receive only a single survey regardless of the number of assessment programs he/she coordinates. Within the survey you will be asked if you are the District Test Coordinator for each assessment program. If you respond "Yes," you will be asked a short series of questions that pertain to that specific program only. If you respond "No," no other questions will be asked for that program. Since each assessment program carefully considers your input to improve our services, we would appreciate you taking the time to respond to each appropriate program. The survey will close on Friday, May 23. We look forward to receiving your comments.

Test Coordinator Information Form

On Tuesday, May 13, all current AIMS, AIMS A, and AZELLA Test Coordinators will receive an email asking them to verify and/or update contact information for school year 2014-2015. Please respond to this email no later than Friday, May 23, 2014.

New Assessment Webpage

On July 1, the Assessment Section webpage will move to a new URL: www.azed.gov/assessment

Spring 2014 Score Reports – Verifying Reports

All reports should be reviewed as soon as possible after being posted on *PearsonAccess*. When reviewing reports, verify that every student tested received a student report for every content area tested. If student reports appear to be missing, or other report corrections are needed, contact Pearson immediately.

All reports and electronic student data files must be downloaded from *PearsonAccess*. Detailed instructions are included in the AIMS *User's Guide* which is posted on *PearsonAccess*. Be certain to download the reports and electronic data file prior to the dates listed below for the "Removal of Reports & Data File from *PearsonAccess*." After these dates, the reports will no longer be available electronically. It is the responsibility of the District Test Coordinator to download and securely store the files. If the District Test Coordinator will not be available to download the files prior to the dates listed below, make sure someone at the district has been provided the information needed to complete this task.

Critical Dates for Spring 2014 AIMS and Stanford 10

Confidential Roster Reports Posted on *PearsonAccess*

May 15 HS Mathematics, HS Science
May 22 Grade 3 Confidential Roster Report Only

Score Reports & Data Files Posted on *PearsonAccess*

May 23 HS Mathematics, HS Science
May 30 AIMS 3-8, Stanford 10

Paper Reports Due to Districts

June 5 HS Mathematics, HS Science
June 5 AIMS 3-8, Stanford 10

Closing Date for Corrections to Reports

May 16 HS Writing, HS Reading
June 28 HS Mathematics, HS Science
June 28 AIMS 3-8, Stanford 10

Removal of Reports & Data Files from *PearsonAccess*

May 16 HS Writing, HS Reading
June 27 HS Mathematics, HS Science
June 27 AIMS 3-8, Stanford 10

2014 - 2015 AIMS Testing Window

AIMS HS – Students expecting to graduate by the end of 2016 are permitted to participate in AIMS HS testing.

Fall 2014: HS Writing, October 28
HS Reading, October 29
HS Mathematics, October 30

Spring 2015: HS Writing, February 23
HS Reading, February 24
HS Mathematics, February 25

AIMS Science – Students in grades 4, 8, and HS will participate in AIMS Science testing.

Spring 2015: March 16 –April 24

If you have any questions regarding AIMS, please email MaryPat.Wood@azed.gov or phone 602.542.5345.

2013-2014 AIMS A Administration

CONGRATULATIONS on completing another AIMS A test administration!

Look for updates and highlights of key areas at the 2014 Director's Institute-AIMS A Session in August.

Returning AIMS A Test Materials

If you haven't done so already, please complete your inventory form, package the AIMS A test materials and return to ADE with the provided return service label (through Fed-Ex). If you have any questions about returning the AIMS A test materials please contact us at 602.542.8239.

Exceeding the 1% Cap

Later this month, PEAs will be notified by the Alternate Assessment Director if the PEA has exceeded the 1% Cap. The AIMS A Test Coordinator will then have an opportunity to submit an appeal. 1% Cap Appeals will be submitted by the end of May.

PLEASE make sure to check your emails and phone messages if your PEA has released for the summer.

If you have any questions, contact Audra Ahumada at 602-542-4016 or Audra.Ahumada@azed.gov.

NCSC Pilot 1



National Center and State Collaborative

The transition to the new alternate assessment is moving right along. The NCSC Pilot 1 window opened April 14 and will close May 16. A huge thank you to all the districts and charters participating in the Pilot. **Arizona has nearly 500 students, 200 test administrators and 59 Districts, Charters and Private Placement Schools in the NCSC Pilot 1.** The effort to further support students with significant cognitive disabilities has not gone unnoticed.

We have learned much and are now looking to take the feedback from Pilot 1 participants to enhance and improve this new assessment platform. The director of alternate assessment, Audra Ahumada, is looking forward to the feedback from our test coordinators and test administrators.

There will be another opportunity for your district or charter to participate with the NCSC Pilot 2. The Alternate Assessment team will be looking for participants in August. The Pilot 2 window will open in October. **This will be the last opportunity for teachers (test administrators) to get a sneak peek at the NCSC alternate assessment before the spring operational test.**

As always, the AIMS A webpage is a resource for Special Education Directors and teachers. The webpage will be updated with new video demonstrations throughout the school year. Be sure to check this page often and refer teachers to do the same.

<http://www.azed.gov/special-education/aimsa/teachers/>.

AIMS A continued

May 2014

NCSC Pilot 1 continued

Providing Clarity . . . Due to Arizona's participation in the National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC) Consortia, we will be rolling out the NCSC Alternate Assessment as our operational alternate assessment for 2014-2015. The Federal grant which provided funds for the development of the multi-state alternate assessment allows for states to use the NCSC Alternate Assessment as operational for 2014-2015. The NCSC Instructional Supports and Resources, which are aligned to the Arizona College and Career Ready Standards, provide teachers of students with significant cognitive disabilities instructional supports and resources that are rooted in best practices for instruction for these students.

Currently, our focus will continue to be on the roll-out of the instructional resources to assist and support teachers' instruction and provide access to the Arizona College and Career Ready Standards. To help make information more easily accessible, a NCSC webpage has been created on the ADE website. Use the following link www.azed.gov/standards-development-assessment/ncsc/ to find NCSC information and resources for test coordinators, test administrators (teachers), and parents.



Making meaning of the Alternate Assessment Terminology:

- Alternate Assessment based on Alternate Achievement Standards (AA-AAS) - this is a term that is used to describe an Alternate Assessment. Alternate Achievement Standards are not the same as Alternate Academic Standards. Both AIMS A and NCSC are alternate assessments.
- Alternate Achievement Standards - descriptors of how well a student may demonstrate proficiency via the alternate assessment. The performance level descriptors on the back of the AIMS A student report are examples of Alternate Achievement Standards.
- While AIMS A has alternate achievement standards based on alternate academic standards, Arizona no longer has alternate academic standards for Reading and Mathematics. NCSC will have alternate achievement standards based on the Arizona College and Career Ready Standards.

NEW! Alternate Assessment Eligibility Criteria

NCSC has developed eligibility criteria for participation in the NCSC alternate assessment. The NCSC Eligibility criteria will be posted on the NCSC webpage by the end of May. Going forward into 2014-2015 school year, IEP teams must remember to address assessment eligibility and accommodations for **both** alternate assessments: AIMS A (Science) and NCSC (Math and ELA). IEP teams should use **each** eligibility criteria to determine participation for the alternate assessments for spring 2015. Specific accommodation needs for the NCSC alternate assessment should also be considered in the student's annual IEP. Information regarding NCSC Accommodations is referenced in the NCSC Test Administration Manual at www.azed.gov/standards-development-assessment/ncsc/.

Assessment determinations are made annually for students.

AIMS A continued

May 2014

AIMS A Science (grades 4, 8, and 10 only)

NCSC ELA and Math (grades 3-8 and 11th grade)

AIMS A Current Eligibility:

1. **Evidence of a significant cognitive disability** in all areas.
2. **Curricular Outcomes** - has access to high quality instruction based on Alternate Academic Standards in all content areas tested and student IEP goals and objectives focused on enrolled grade alternate academic standards.
3. **Intensity of Instruction** - extremely difficult for student to acquire, maintain, generalize and apply academic skills across environments.

NCSC Alternate Assessment Eligibility:

1. **The student has a significant cognitive disability** - review of the student records indicates a disability or multiple disabilities that significantly impact intellectual functional and adaptive behavior.
2. **The student is learning content linked to (derived from) the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)** - goals and instruction listed in the IEP for this student are linked to the enrolled grade level CCSS and address knowledge and skills that are appropriate and challenging for this student.
3. **The student requires extensive direct individualized instructional and substantial supports to achieve measureable gains in the grade and age appropriate curriculum** - the student (a) requires intensive, repeated individualized instruction and support that is not of temporary or transient in nature and (b) uses substantially adapted materials and individualized methods in alternative ways to acquire, maintain, generalize, demonstrate, and transfer skills across multiple settings.

The NCSC Eligibility Criteria can be located on the NCSC Webpage under: General Information.



Don't forget to share this information with your teachers!

As always, the AIMS A webpage is a resource for Special Education Directors and teachers. The webpage will be updated with new video demonstrations throughout the school year. Be sure the check this page often and refer teachers to do the same. <http://www.azed.gov/special-education/aimsa/teachers/>.

Spring 2014 AZELLA Reassessment Recap

Approximately 94,000 students participated in the Spring 2014 AZELLA Reassessment test administration. The Spring 2014 test administration was much improved over last year's.

- The administration of the Speaking test was much improved.
 - The number of duplicate or incorrect lithocodes key entered was greatly reduced from more than 1500 in Spring 2013 to fewer than 700 in Spring 2014.
 - The number of students with a missing/unmatched Speaking test was greatly reduced from nearly 3300 in Spring 2013 to fewer than 550 in Spring 2014.
 - The number of Speaking tests that could not be matched to a student was greatly reduced from more than 1800 in Spring 2013 to fewer than 200 in Spring 2014.
- Completion of student demographics pages for students without pre-ID labels was improved.
 - The most frequent error was not bubbling the student's grade level.
- Packaging of test materials was improved.
 - The most frequent error was bubbling an incorrect n-count on the header sheet.
- The timeliness of the return shipments was improved.
 - The percent of districts returning their materials on time improved from 80% to 93%.

The Spring 2014 AZELLA Reassessment electronic reports are scheduled to be posted to *PearsonAccess* by end of day on Thursday, May 8. AZELLA District Test Coordinators are expected to download and securely store the electronic student data file and PDF versions of the reports as soon as possible after they have been posted. A *PearsonAccess User's Guide* with directions for accessing and downloading these reports will be posted to *PearsonAccess* by May 7. Guidance regarding the use and interpretation of AZELLA results is posted to the AZELLA webpage of the ADE website under the "General Information" tab. Paper reports will be in districts/charters by May 20, 2014.

AZELLA Corrections Application

The Spring 2014 AZELLA Reassessment results that cannot be matched to SAIS will be visible in the ADE Common Logon AZELLA Corrections Application by May 15. AZELLA results in the corrections application will not be included in any accountability measure. Please check the application and submit corrections promptly so that all AZELLA results will be included in accountability measures.

AZELLA Placement Testing for School Year 2014-2015

Beginning in July, AZELLA District Test Coordinators will need to do several things to prepare for AZELLA Placement Testing for School Year 2014 -2015.

- Complete AZELLA Placement Test Training.
This training will be an online training available in early July. ADE is in the process of replacing IDEAL with Blackboard. Information about how to access this training will be emailed to AZELLA District Test Coordinators as soon as it is available. When you receive the email on May 13 asking for updated contact information, be certain to reply.
- Complete and submit an AZELLA Placement Test Materials Worksheet.
This new form is posted ([here](#)). AZELLA District Test Coordinators must complete and submit this form before ordering AZELLA Placement Test material in *PearsonAccess*. The purpose of this form is to confirm the quantity of placement test materials needed for the entire school year so that only a single Placement Test materials order will be needed.

(continued on page 7)

AZELLA Placement Testing for School Year 2014-2015 continued

- Confirm that your district has qualified Kindergarten Placement Test Administrators and qualified AZELLA Stages II-V Writing scorers as needed.
Staff members who will be administering the AZELLA Kindergarten Placement Test must complete annual training and qualification before Kindergarten placement testing may begin. Staff members who will be scoring the Writing responses for the AZELLA Stages II – V Placement Test must complete annual training and qualification before Stages II-V placement testing may begin. More details about these required trainings and qualifications will be included in the AZELLA Placement Test Training.

2014 – 2015 AZELLA Placement Test Scoring Cycles

Cycle	Last Key Entry Date	Electronic Results Posted	Paper Reports Due
1	8/15/2014	9/4/2014	9/11/2014
2	8/29/2014	9/18/2014	9/25/2014
3	9/12/2014	10/2/2014	10/9/2014
4	9/26/2014	10/16/2014	10/23/2014
5	10/24/2014	11/13/2014	11/20/2014
6	11/21/2014	12/11/2014	12/18/2014
7	12/19/2014	1/8/2015	1/15/2015
8	1/30/2015	2/19/2015	2/26/2015
9	2/27/2015	3/12/2015	3/19/2015
10	3/27/2015	4/16/2015	4/23/2015
11	4/24/2015	5/14/2015	5/21/2015
12	5/22/2015	6/11/2015	6/18/2015

Spring 2015 AZELLA Reassessment

The Spring 2015 AZELLA Reassessment Test window will be February 9, 2015 through March 27, 2015.

Enhancements for School Year 2014-2015

The SDELL70 report is being modified to include the student's most recent "Total Combined" score and to include the student's most recent ELL program history.

The SDELL72 report is scheduled to be available again.

We are working on providing the Listening portion of the AZELLA tests (both Placement and Reassessment) in an online format in addition to the CD format.

If you have any questions regarding AZELLA, email AZELLA@azed.gov or phone 602.542.2967



NAEP

May 2014

National Assessment of Educational Progress

NAEP 2015 It's almost here!

2015 is a Main NAEP and TIMSS (Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study) year which means we will have about 300 Arizona schools selected to participate. Please know that NAEP and TIMSS provide a Field Team to administer all aspects of NAEP or TIMSS at your site. There will be paper and pencil assessments along with technology-based assessment studies. NAEP and TIMSS Field teams will bring all devices and materials necessary for the assessments and studies. We will begin notifying districts/charters and schools in the next couple of months if they have been selected to represent Arizona in the following assessments and studies:

	Content	Grades	Assessment Window
NAEP 2015	Math, Reading, Science	4, 8, 12	1/26-3/6/2015
TIMSS 2015	Math, Science	4, 8, 12	3/30-5/29/2015

(Note: TIMSS window will depend on "Last Day of School" dates)

NAEP 2014 Thank You!

Thank you to all students who participated in the NAEP 2014 assessments and to School Coordinators who helped to make NAEP 2014 a successful administration. Assessments included:

Grade 4: Science pilots

Grade 8: Civics, geography, U.S. history, technology and engineering literacy, and science pilots

Grade 12: Science pilots

Results (national level only) will be released fall 2014 and we will email participating districts/charters and schools press conference information as well as snapshots of results.

Arizona Schools Lead the Way in the NAEP Science Tablet Study

Glendale Elementary School District, Deer Valley Unified Schools District, and Sequoia Charter Schools volunteered for this valuable study. Grade 4 and 8 students at **Desert Spirit/GESD**, Grade 4, 8, and 12 students from **Sequoia Charter Schools, Mesa** and Grade 12 students from **Sandra Day O'Connor and Deer Valley High School, in Deer Valley USD** participated in this first of its kind innovative NAEP tablet study.

The assessment was administered on touch-enabled tablets with keyboards, provided by NAEP, and required students to solve scientific problems. Students conducted scientific investigations using hands-on materials and the touch-enabled device to simulate a natural or laboratory setting. Sample questions and findings from the 2009 science assessments are available on The Nation's Report Card website: http://nationsreportcard.gov/science_2009. (As is true in the low stakes NAEP, there was no identifiable student information collected; and data are aggregated and analyzed to inform future assessments which are slated to be entirely delivered via technology devices by 2017.)

From Shelly Pollnow, Ed.D., Director of the NAEP Program for Arizona

NAEP continued

National Assessment of Educational Progress

May 2014

NAEP Science Tablet Study continued

NAEP is the largest national assessment of student achievement in the United States. About 50 students in grades 4, 8, or 12 at each school were selected to participate. The assessment took approximately 60 minutes to complete and was administered in two sequential sessions of about 25 students each. NAEP always provides the devices and administers all aspects of assessments. See the Infrastructure Framework below of the secure networked devices.

Assessment Infrastructure

- The student and supervisor applications ran entirely within a local internet browser on touch-enabled devices, such as tablets, provided by NAEP.
- Students used tablets to complete the NAEP assessment in the student application while NAEP representatives used the supervisor application to monitor the assessments.
- During the assessment, the student and NAEP representative tablets communicated with the NAEP laptop server through a NAEP wireless router.
- At no time was there any connection to the school's Internet, networks, or computers.
- The wireless routers are industry standard Wi-Fi devices (802.11), and there was no interference with school equipment.

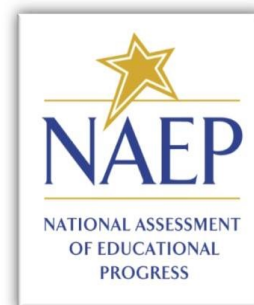
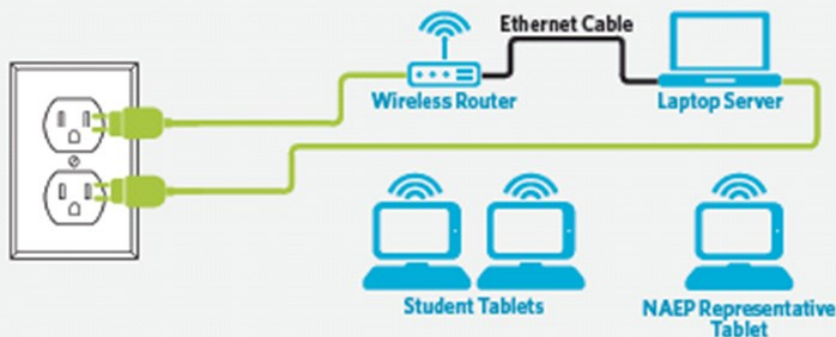
Infrastructure



Power cables will be the only connectivity to the school infrastructure



NAEP equipment will not connect to school networks and it is not expected to cause any network interference with school equipment



Follow NAEP on social media:



NAEP continued

May 2014

National Assessment of Educational Progress

Thank you to our Arizona NAEP Technology Leaders



Jacque Horine, Principal

Desert Spirit Elementary School
Glendale Elementary School District
NAEP School Coordinator: Jacque Horine



Justin Fox, Assistant Principal, Heidi Manoguerra, Principal, and Amy Frazer, Horne Campus Director

Sequoia
Sequoia Charter Schools, Mesa
NAEP School Coordinator: Tammy Richardson



Kimberly Heinz, Principal Lynn Miller, Brad Brazell and Nicole Duquette

Sandra Day O'Connor High School
Deer Valley Unified School District
NAEP School Coordinator: Justin McClain



Lori Mora and Terri Roberts, Assistant Principals, Barbara Dobbs, Principal

Deer Valley High School
Deer Valley Unified School District
NAEP School Coordinators: Lori Mora and Terri Roberts



Pick-Up for PBA Materials

All PBA materials, scorable and nonscorable, need to be returned to Pearson within one week of completing test administration. You can find the procedures for the pickup process for the PARCC test in the *Test Coordinator Manual for Paper Based Assessment* in section 4.2. The specific information for contacting UPS is in section 4.2.10 on page 34.

End of Year Testing

The testing window for the End of Year component of the PARCC Field Test is May 5 – June 6. The [Quick Start Checklist for Computer-Based Testing](#) can be found on the ADE website under the Field Test tab.

EOY Infrastructure Trials

If you are participating in the PARCC Field Test for the first time during the End of Year component, we highly encourage you to complete the Infrastructure Trial prior to testing. You can find the *Infrastructure Guide at PearsonAccess* under the [Support](#) tab and training modules at parcc.tms.pearson.com/.

Student Data Upload and Test Session Creation Chart

Pearson has created a document that contains enhanced directions for how schools should proceed with student data uploads and test session creation. Included is a chart that details the different scenarios in which schools may be registered for EOY testing and the specific steps that should be followed in each scenario.

Also included are directions for SDU and Test Session creation, links to EOY Student Data Upload instructions, and instructions for Reverse Student Data Upload. This document can be found on the [ADE website](#) under the Field Test tab.

Survey for Test Coordinators and Technology Coordinators

Based on a request from the Arizona Department of Education, PARCC created a survey that school and district leaders may use to submit additional feedback on the PARCC field test administration. PARCC will use information gathered through this survey to improve administration policies and protocols as well as the computer-based delivery system for next year's administration. District/School Test Coordinators and District/School Technology Coordinators should fill out this survey after their field test administration no later than June 13, 2014 at www.surveymonkey.com/s/PARCC-field-test-feedback. District/school leads may either choose to give PBA and EOY feedback through separate survey responses (i.e., one response after the PBA and one response after the EOY) or through one survey response for both PBA and EOY.

Please note that Test Administrators may submit feedback through the Test Administrator Survey found at www.surveymonkey.com/s/3ZJSXH3.

OELAS Update

A "Practitioners of English Language Learning (PELL) Meeting" is scheduled for Friday, May 9, 2014 from 8:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. The meeting will be held at the Black Canyon Conference Center, 9440 North 25th Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85021.

PELL meeting topics will include the following: A-F Letter Grades, AZELLA Updates, OELAS Professional Development, and Title III transition to the new Grants Management Enterprise System.

Registration is \$75.00, includes breakfast and lunch, and can be accessed at the following link: <http://www.azed.gov/online/registration/EventLocationSelection.asp?EventID=3175>

Assessment 2013 - 2014 Critical Dates Calendar

To help District Test Coordinators track upcoming dates for each of the different Assessment programs, an Assessment Calendar is posted on every Assessment page on the ADE website. This calendar includes critical dates for AIMS, AIMS A, AZELLA, NAEP, and PARCC and will be updated monthly throughout the year. The calendar can be viewed by month with all Assessment programs or by the specific Assessment program at www.azed.gov/standards-development-assessment/. The individual Assessment program calendars will have more detailed information.

Contact Information**AIMS**

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NAEP

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NOTE: *The Examiner* is published electronically every August, November, February, and May for distribution to test coordinators in Arizona schools. Test coordinators are responsible for disseminating information in *The Examiner*, as appropriate. *The Examiner* is located electronically at <http://www.azed.gov/standards-development-assessment/examiner/>.